



Harvard Model Congress

Boston 2024

House of Representatives Armed Services Committee

Dear Armed Services Delegates,

Our names are Bobby, Ava, Maria, and Lillian and we are your chairs for Harvard Model Congress Boston!

My name is Bobby and I am a senior from Olive Branch, Mississippi studying government and history. I have staffed HMC Boston for three years now, with this year being my fourth. Outside of class, I like to read, write, drink copious amounts of coffee, and go out with friends. One of my favorite tv shows is Avatar: The Last Airbender. I'm so excited to meet all of you in the spring!

My name is Lillian and I am a freshman from Atkinson, North Carolina studying government. This is my first year being with the HMC team, and I am super excited! Outside of HMC, I am involved with the Institute of Politics (IOP) Campaign and Advocacy Program, and I am also a mentor for the Ivy League Mentoring program. In my free time, I love playing volleyball with friends, taking walks outside, and visiting art museums. I can't wait to meet you all!

My name is Ava and I am a freshman from San Augustine, Texas planning to do a joint concentration in linguistics and government (but we'll see). This is my first year in HMC! I am also involved in Harvard Linguistic Society and Crimson's arts board. Other than school, I enjoy being active, doing anything related to the arts scene, and listening to music. I also love drinking tea and can definitely talk too long about it! See you soon!

My name is Maria, and I'm a sophomore from Houston, Texas studying Applied Math; this is also my first year on HMC. I enjoy photography, exploring Boston's food scene, and being outdoors outside of class. Can't wait to see y'all soon!

The House Armed Services Committee has a crucial role in shaping the United States' defense policies and military capabilities. With jurisdiction over defense spending, military operations, and personnel matters, the committee ensures the nation's armed forces are well-equipped and prepared to meet evolving security challenges. Its decisions impact not only the military but also national security more broadly. Between escalating conflicts, technological advancement, and rising civil unrest across the world, the US military will have to adapt to successfully protect the nation and world, and our committee will be on the forefront of this.

Our first briefing deals with militarization in Africa and how the US and its military can both secure peace on the continent and maintain its strategic alliances in the region. It discusses the way Russia and China have attempted to expand their influence on the continent and what the US can do to combat them, as well as how rising geopolitical contests and the persistent threat of terrorism have and will continue to shape American interests and action in the continent.

Our second briefing discusses the Somali Civil War. Delegates will explore the complexities of the current situation, and delve deeper into the historical context, the key actors, and the



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current state of the war, with the aim of gaining a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced in creating a more peaceful and prosperous future for this nation.

Our second briefing discusses the relationship between the Philippines and the United States. The Philippines is the US's oldest alliance in Asia, but the relationship has not always been straightforward. While popular support for allied, bilateral relationships between the two countries is strong, the relationship has grown strained due to potential human rights abuses and a growing anti-American stance in the country.

We hope that you come away from HMC Boston feeling that you were intellectually challenged and fulfilled. If you have any questions beforehand, please feel free to reach out to us and introduce yourself.

See you in February!
Bobby, Olanrewaju, Ava, Maria, and Lillian